

Huron-Manistee National Forests  
Mio Ranger District  
Merit Energy Company Monitoring Wells Project  
June, 2011

The Huron-Manistee National Forests, received a request from Merit Energy Company to install ground water monitoring wells at the existing USA Big Creek 3-16 producing gas/oil well and central processing facility site on the Mio Ranger District. The monitoring wells are an expansion of the existing environmental investigation for the site. The project includes 6 new monitoring locations, 2 on and 4 off the existing cleared pad. The project includes 3 wells at each location plus access routes to the off-site locations for construction and year-round testing.

Merit purchased the USA Big Creek 3-16 mineral lease and improvements in 2010 and is expanding the monitoring program to produce a remediation system in cooperation with State and Federal agencies. The investigation would identify the extent of the lateral contamination at the site. Currently there are 8 monitoring locations, 7 on the well pad and 1 off. The existing monitoring locations would be added to the authorization proposal (approximately 0.07acre).

USA Big Creek 3-16 is located off Forest Service Road 4382 to an entrance road. The site is located in a portion of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 16, T25N, R2E, Big Creek Township, Oscoda County, Michigan. Each location is approximately 20 feet x 20 feet. The total project would include approximately 0.25 acres.

If allowed, a Special Use Authorization would be issued for use and occupancy of National Forest System lands for the well monitoring project. An annual special-use fee would be charged for this authorization because Merit Energy Company does not qualify for a fee waiver in accordance with Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 part 251, section 57.

If you have any comments or additional information regarding this project please contact Pat Thompson, at the Mio Ranger District, 107 McKinley Road, Mio, Michigan 48647, (989) 826-3252, TTY - (989) 826-3592.